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### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1983

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**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Trevor Allan on Canberra (062) 52 7136 or any of our State offices.

*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

#### MAIN FEATURES

During December 1983, 83,300 working days were lost by 33,100 workers in 101 industrial disputes compared with 69,800 working days lost by 31,000 workers in 139 industrial disputes in December 1982.

In the twelve months ending December 1983 there were 249 working days lost per thousand employees, which represents the lowest comparable period loss since 1967 when there were 176 working days lost per thousand employees.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### Introduction

Previous December quarter issues of the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) have included tables of working days lost per thousand employees. Similar tables have now been included in this publication.

##### Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*.

3. The figures of working days and wages lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

##### Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

6. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Estimated loss in wages* represents the amount of wages and salaries lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and the amount is generally reported by parties to the dispute.

10. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

11. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

##### Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1982* (6101.0)

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) — *quarterly and annual*  
*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—*monthly*

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

##### Symbols and other usages

— nil or rounded to zero  
r revised

14. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)	Estimated loss in wages (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
Twelve months ended—						
June 1981	2,759	2,808	849.1	936.2	2,900.9	146,349
1982	2,541	2,632	1,119.8	1,229.2	3,832.5	211,207
1983	1,811	1,840	569.7	605.1	1,999.7	138,700
December 1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2	221,779
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0	133,624
1983	1,779	1,787	453.1	479.9	1,641.4	123,852
1983—						
January	100	108	24.4	25.4	105.5	6,254
February	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4	7,219
March	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9	14,314
April	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9	19,930
May	141	166	31.0	50.9	174.5	14,044
June	164	183	50.4	52.9	100.5	6,722
July	179	209	41.9	60.0	148.1	11,380
August	191	224	65.7	73.1	146.9	11,144
September	146	173	27.0	39.2	103.3	7,727
October	181	208	59.7	70.2	124.3	9,393
November	171	192	37.3	46.1	136.9	10,453
December	871	101	24.1	33.1	83.3	5,269

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
Twelve months ended—								
June 1981	421.9	263.1	705.5	445.9	266.0	272.8	525.8	2,900.9
1982	649.8	250.2	870.5	622.8	412.6	356.6	670.0	3,832.5
1983	156.4	117.1	232.7	267.3	269.8	320.5	636.0	1,999.7
December 1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
1983	122.8	194.7	155.8	120.7	337.2	186.4	523.8	1,641.4
1983—								
January	1.1	11.9	4.1	2.8	12.1	69.6	3.8	105.5
February	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4	102.4
March	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9
April	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6	235.9
May	16.4	5.9	4.8	10.7	15.5	9.3	111.8	174.5
June	5.3	11.4	8.1	9.2	22.9	13.8	29.9	100.5
July	8.7	22.0	17.7	16.3	29.7	(b)	10.3	148.1
August	12.1	40.1	18.8	25.3	33.4	4.8	12.4	146.9
September	9.3	50.2	8.5	11.7	12.5	3.5	7.6	103.3
October	12.3	12.2	8.6	7.3	36.6	8.7	38.4	124.3
November	17.3	13.2	13.8	8.8	60.7	3.8	19.4	136.9
December	3.1	7.0	5.5	2.4	18.4	44.4	2.5	83.3

(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (b) Not available for publication.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
Twelve months ended—							
June 1981	1,299.1	621.8	620.9	71.7	158.8	81.5	2,900.9
1982	1,755.6	1,082.1	418.0	143.2	261.2	81.5	3,832.5
1983	927.5	350.1	411.2	110.6	131.7	53.9	1,999.7
December 1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
1983	801.2	257.7	135.3	87.4	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
1983—							
January	81.5	6.8	8.6	0.2	7.5	0.2	105.5
February	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April	157.5	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9
May	128.8	19.7	5.0	9.3	6.2	5.1	174.5
June	57.8	11.7	10.7	1.0	10.4	7.0	100.5
July	86.7	15.0	19.8	1.3	21.7	3.2	148.1
August	39.6	41.8	17.1	5.5	29.4	11.7	146.9
September	17.2	11.3	19.8	3.8	32.8	14.2	103.3
October	41.1	31.2	8.9	1.0	33.3	5.9	124.3
November	138.4	8.6	10.4	0.8	62.2	12.9	136.9
December	10.6	44.5	1.9	0.6	20.7	1.3	83.3

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory



CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES  
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1982 AND 1983

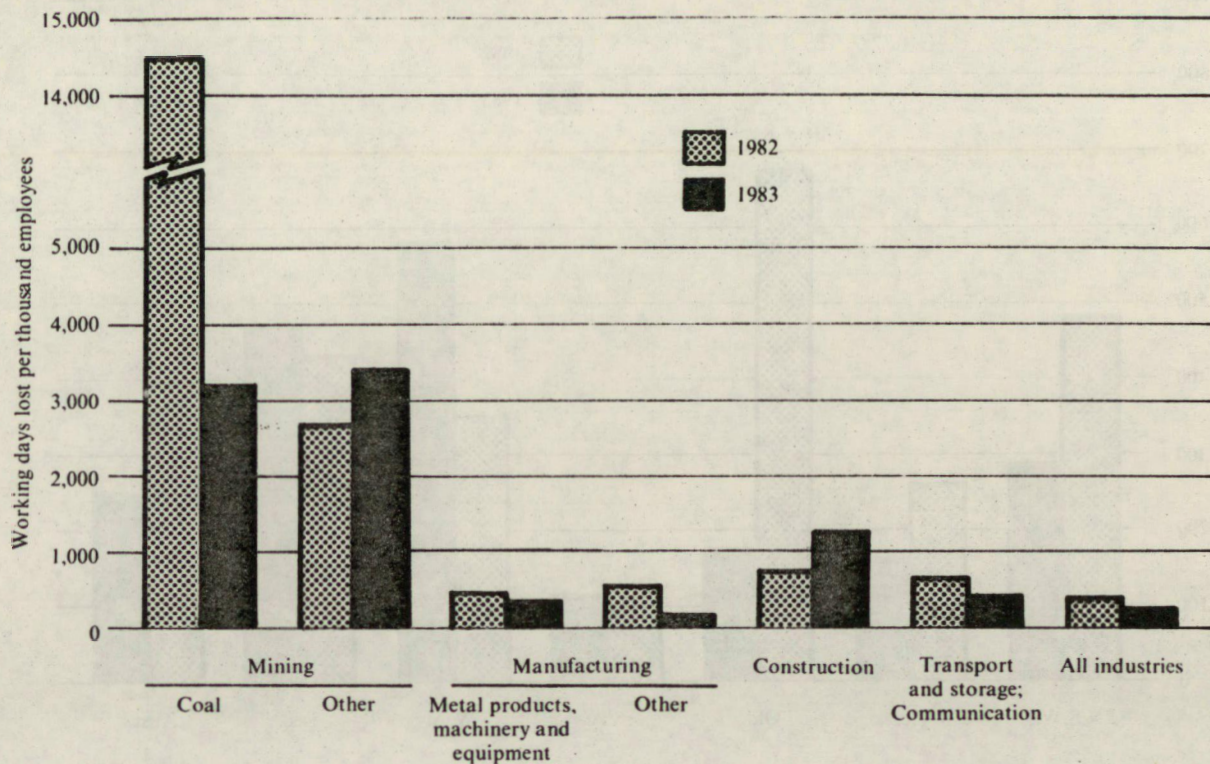


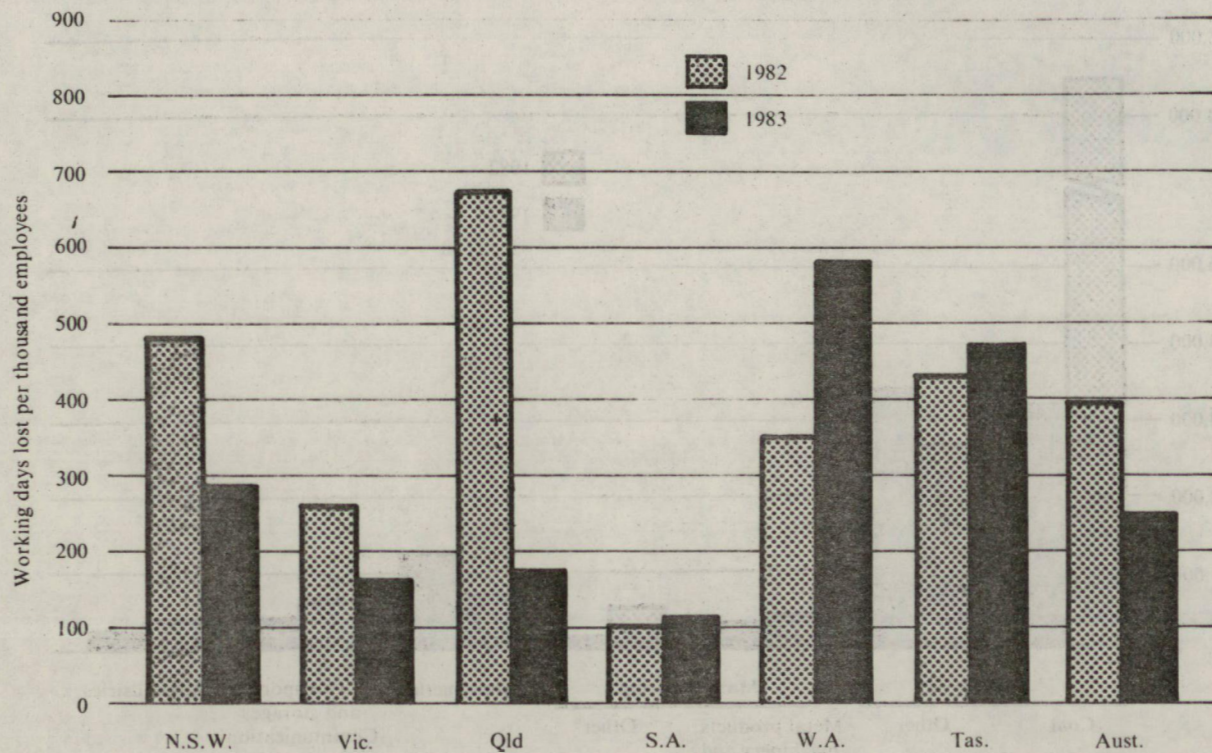
TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	<i>Manufacturing</i>								<i>All industries (a)</i>
	<i>Mining</i>		<i>Metal products, machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Transport and storage; Communication</i>	<i>Other industries</i>		
	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Other</i>							
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
June 1981	14,017	4,992	1,339	671	832	676	166	563	
1982	19,112	4,190	1,636	937	1,349	833	203	729	
1983	4,274	2,025	488	411	940	727	56	298	
December 1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800	
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396	
1983	3,240	3,399	348	186	1,269	423	51	249	

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.



**CHART 2 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, STATES AND AUSTRALIA WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1982 AND 1983**



**TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)**

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
June 1981	708	439	856	150	366	582	563
1982	937	756	557	294	584	581	729
1983	316	227	541	120	269	346	298
December 1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
1983	288	163	178	114	581	471	249

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.